AKA TO KURO
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Supidamarada! Chapter 04

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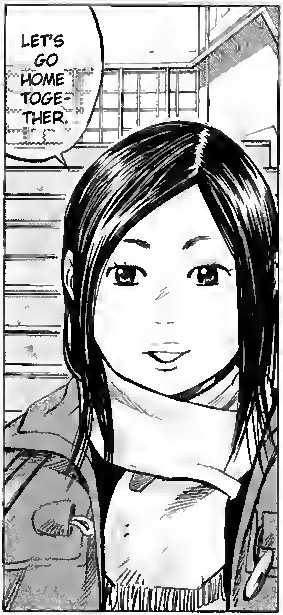
Chapter 4: Rusted Goalpost



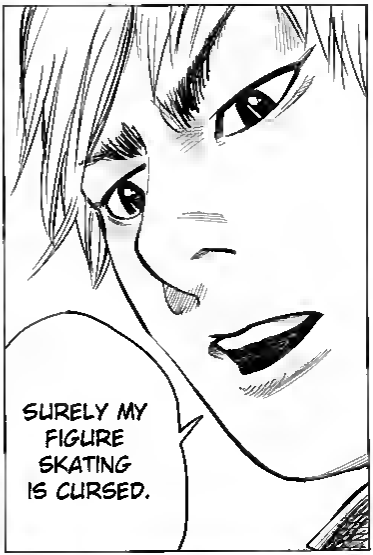
NORMALLY, YOU PRACTICE EVERYDAY, FROM NOW UNTIL NIGHT TIME, RIGHT?
ARE YOU GOING STRAIGHT HOME?
HUH? UMM
WHY DO YOU ASK?
NO REASON.
IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW.
WE'VE HARDLY EVER GONE HOME TOGE-THER
It's awkward going home with Haruna.
Oh yeah. I don't have anything to do anymore so I can go home, but...
HEY, LOOK! THEY'RE STILL AT IT.
THE ICE HOCKEY CLUB?
DIDN'T THEY TRY TO GET YOU TO JOIN TOO?
THEY SHOULD JUST GIVE UP.

IF NOT, THE MIYAMORI ICE HOCKEY CLUB CAN'T JOIN THE QUALIFIERS!!
LET ME WRITE YOUR NAME IN THIS TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM!
LET GO! I SAID NO!
YOU'RE OUR LAST HOPE!
COME ON!!
WHOOSH

THEN JUST BEING IN THE RINK IS FINE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING!!
YOUR FIRST ROUND OPPONENT IS HOKURYO JUNIOR HIGH, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO GET INJURED BEFORE THE SKATING CLUB TOURNAMENT
DOHI.
NOT EVEN 1? MAN, THEY SUCK
WILL YOU HELP THEM?
NO WAY!! HOKURYO WILL KILL THEM.
DID YOU KNOW?
THE HOCKEY CLUB NEVER SCORED.
NO CHANCE IN HELL THEY'LL WIN OVER ANY JUNIOR HIGH THIS YEAR
THEY CAN'T EVEN SCORE 1 GOAL.
WOW. SINCE IT'S WINTER, THEY'RE SPRINKLING WATER IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS TO MAKE THE SCHOOLYARD RINKS.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, POU-KUN.
THEY ALSO HAVE RINKS IN THE CITY ALL YEAR-ROUND. AREN'T THEY LUCKY?
clench
ice hockey
Gaaaah crap! What should I do about that goalpost?
WH-WHAT'S WRONG?

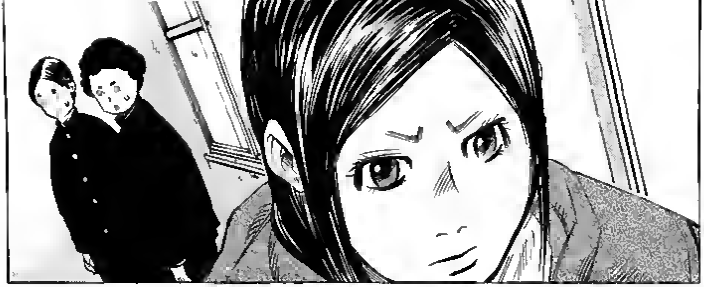
WHEN I GET ON THE ICE,
BAD THINGS HAPPEN.
HUH?

HEY, WHAT IS THAT?
rattle
OH MY GOD!!

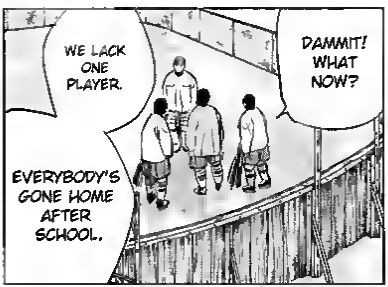

SURELY MY FIGURE SKATING IS CURSED.

HARUNA, GO ON AHEAD.
SOME-THING'S COME UP.
.....

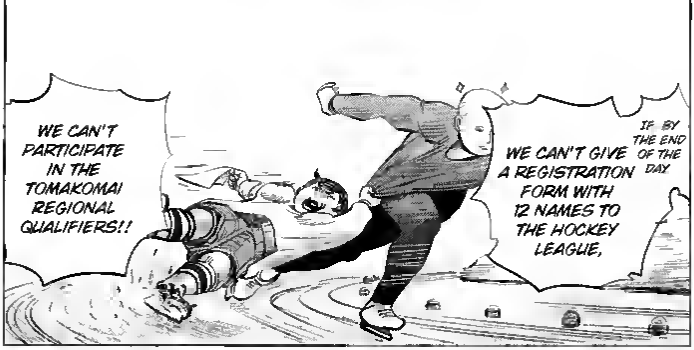
BAM

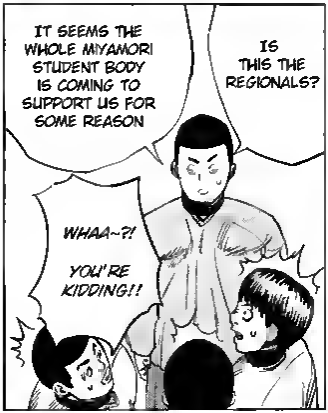


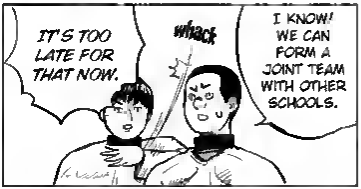
HAVE WE FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP US?
THEY KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING UP AGAINST HOKURYO JUNIOR HIGH, SO THEY'RE GETTING COLD FEET.
NO, NOT YET
HEY, CAPTAIN KOSUGI!!
YES.


WE LACK ONE PLAYER.
EVERYBODY'S GONE HOME AFTER SCHOOL.
DAMMIT! WHAT NOW?

HE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE THE SPEED SKATER OVER THERE BUT IT'S LOOKING HOPELESS
WHERE'D DOHI GO?


WE CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE TOMAKOMAI REGIONAL QUALIFIERS!!
WE CAN'T GIVE A REGISTRATION FORM WITH 12 NAMES TO THE HOCKEY LEAGUE,
IF BY THE END OF THE DAY

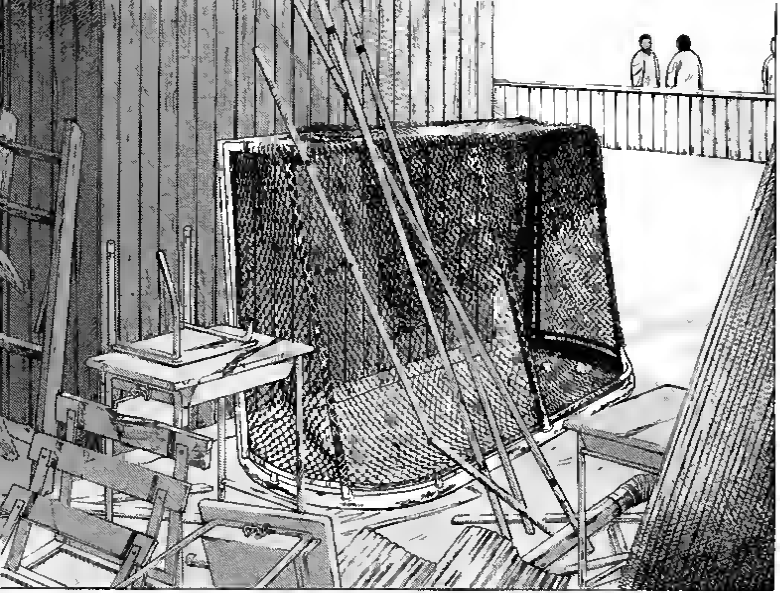

IT SEEMS THE WHOLE MIYAMORI STUDENT BODY IS COMING TO SUPPORT US FOR SOME REASON
IS THIS THE REGIONALS?
WHAA~?! YOU'RE KIDDING!!


IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW.
whack
I KNOW! WE CAN FORM A JOINT TEAM WITH OTHER SCHOOLS.

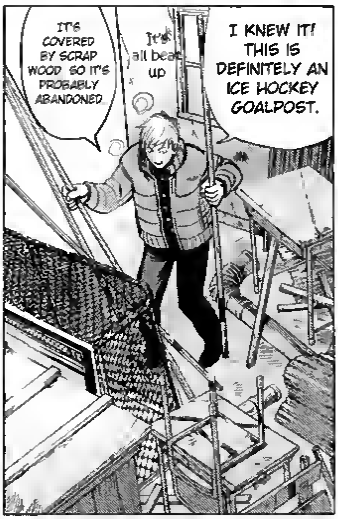
RIGHT SORRY
EVEN SO, WE WANT TO PLAY AS MIYAMORI, NOT AS SOME OTHER TEAM. WE NEED TO KEEP LOOKING FOR ONE LAST PLAYER

IT'S JUST VERY HUMILIATING TO LOSE COMPLETELY IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.
WE CAN'T WIN AGAINST HOKURYÔ EVEN IF THEY ALL CHEER FOR US.
NO, IT'S TRUE.

DUMBASS.
THAT'S THE SAME THING AS RUNNING!!
RIGHT. SORRY.
IT'S NOT RUNNING.
IT'S JUST THAT, IF WE CAN'T FIND SOMEONE TO HELP, THEN...
slap
SO
SHOULD WE WITH-DRAW?
YOU MEAN RUN AWAY?
OF COURSE, IF WE WIN AND ADVANCE TO THE REGIONALS,
I STILL CAN'T SEE US MAKING IT TO THE PREFECTURALS OR THE NATIONALS
THIS IS THE LAST GAME OF THE YEAR.
IF WE GO DOWN, LET'S GO DOWN IN FLAMES.
ALRIGHT. SO, LET'S ALL LOOK FOR SOMEONE TO HELP AGAIN.
ALRIGHT!!
...



WOOHOO!! I'M SAVED!
THIS WILL SPARE ME THE GRIEF FROM THOSE HOCKEY BROTHERS.


I KNEW IT! THIS IS DEFINITELY AN ICE HOCKEY GOALPOST.
It's all beat up
IT'S COVERED BY SCRAP WOOD SO IT'S PROBABLY ABANDONED.

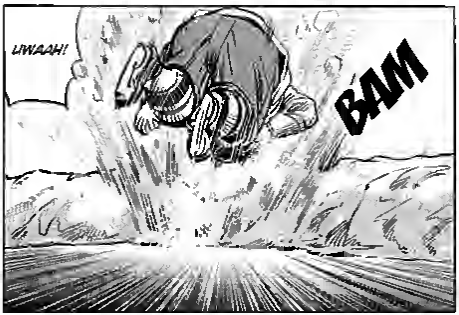
I WONDER IF I CAN DRAG THIS THROUGH THE SNOW SOMEHOW

WHAT'S HE DOING?
HEY! LOOK THERE.
SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING?
SHOULD WE CALL A TEACHER?
IS HE TRYING TO TAKE THAT GOALPOST?
drag
drag
drag
HUH?
LEAVE HIM.
BUT-
BUT EITHER WAY, IN THIS RINK...
WELL, YEAH.
IT WAS GONNA BE THROWN AWAY?
DOHI HEARD THE OLD ADVISER SAY SO.
AND THAT ONE'S SO TATTERED IT SHOULD BE THROWN AWAY ANYWAY.
WE ONLY USE ONE GOALPOST WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE

H-HEY, EXCUSE ME! EXCUSE ME?!
SORRY, THIS IS A BIT AWKWARD, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT

It's the goal keeper
STILL, IT'S WHAT MIYAMORI'S ALWAYS USED

WAAAH
JUMP
SLIDE

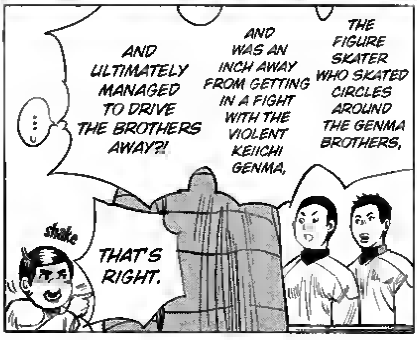

UWAAH!
BAM

I CAN'T ?
IT'S WORN-OUT AND WAS BURIED AMONG GARBAGE SO I FIGU-

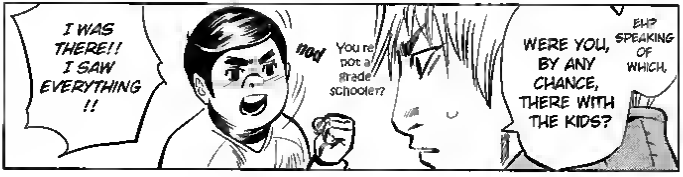
WHAT THE ?!
whoosh
whoo
oo
o
o
sh

land
later
Y-
YOU'RE-
WHAT A JUMP!
WHAT WAS THAT?! JUST NOW-
EH?!
ARE YOU OKAY, DOHI?!
……
BECAUSE IT WAS ME, I WAS ABLE TO DODGE YOU, BUT THAT WAS DANGEROUS, MAN!
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

THE
FIGURE SKATER FROM THAT TIME!


THE FIGURE SKATER WHO SKATED CIRCLES AROUND THE GENMA BROTHERS,
AND WAS AN INCH AWAY FROM GETTING IN A FIGHT WITH THE VIOLENT KEIICHI GENMA,
AND ULTIMATELY MANAGED TO DRIVE THE BROTHERS AWAY?!
...
Shake
THAT'S RIGHT.

HE'S THE GUY YOU MENTIONED YESTERDAY, DOH!?
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S THE ONE.


I WAS THERE!! I SAW EVERYTHING !!
Wait
You're not a 3rd grade schooler?
WERE YOU, BY ANY CHANCE, THERE WITH THE KIDS?
EH? SPEAKING OF WHICH,

HAAAAAA, OH YES, OH YES, OH YES.
JOLT
WHAT ?!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT?! NOOO.
CRICK
DO YOU ALWAYS PLAY WITH ELEMENTARY KIDS?
WHAT, DOHI,
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GO TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH
HA!
THIS GUY'S A TRANSFER STUDENT WHO ARRIVED IN CLASS TODAY ROU SHIRAKAWA IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY
WHO TRANSFERS AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
EACH TEAM HAS TO HAVE AT LEAST 12 PLAYERS, OR ELSE THEY WILL BE DIS-QUALIFIED
THE TRUTH IS THAT IN AN OFFICIAL GAME OF JUNIOR HIGH ICE HOCKEY,
WHAT ?!
YOU CAN HELP US.
ROU-SENPAI !!
PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS.
SOMEHOW, WE MANAGED TO FIND 6 MORE PEOPLE TO HELP OUT.
CURRENTLY, THERE ARE 5 MEMBERS IN THE MIYAMORI ICE HOCKEY CLUB OF THE 5, 1 IS A 3RD YEAR AND 4 ARE 2ND YEARS
BUT WE STILL LACK ONE MORE!!

PLEASE HELP,
AND PLAY HOCKEY WITH US!!

NO.
HUUU UH?!
OH NO
I-I'M BEGGING YOU, FOR SURE, YOU ROU-SEMPAI, WOULD BE A STRONG PLAYER
THEN, JUST STAY IN THE RINK
NO WAY.
NO.
ignore
I ABSO-LUTELY
DO NOT WANT TO PLAY ICE HOCKEY
YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE IT.
THAT GOALPOST HAS NOT BEEN THROWN AWAY
WHAT NOW ?
WAIT.
Grab
ANYWAY, I'M IN A HURRY I'M GOING HOME
WAIT, WAIT!
!!
.....

ROU-SEMPAI, THIS IS THE REGIONAL QUALIFIERS TOURNAMENT PARTICI-PATION APPLICATION.
IF YOU WRITE YOUR NAME HERE, THE GOALPOST IS YOURS.
YOU DO WANT IT, RIGHT?
SO LET'S MAKE THE DEAL!!